

the specification at lines 11-14. The Examiner alleges that the Amendment "the change of low capacity" should apparently read as "the charge of low capacity".

Applicants respectfully traverse that the Examiner's objection to the Amendment as being incorrect. Applicants submit that the Amendment as it presently reads "the change of low capacity" is correct when viewed in light of the embodiment shown in Fig. 37 of the present application. In Fig.s. 37 of the present application the low capacity of the load circuit LCI is merely a parasitic capacitance at the node 5 when Q_{12} is "off" and Q_{13} is "on" due to the "off" state of ϕ_1 and the "on" state of the ϕ_2 , while the low capacitance of the load circuit LCI becomes large by addition of the large capacitance C_D when Q_{12} is "on" and Q_{13} is "off" due to the "on" state of ϕ_1 and the "off" state of ϕ_2 .

Thus the change of the load capacitance actually occurs in the embodiment of Fig. 37. Therefore, the amendment to page 32 lines 11-14 of the specification is correct as it reads and need not be modified as suggested by the Examiner.

In the January 16, 1992 Office Action claims 23, 32, 33, 50-62 and 71-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 71-73 were cancelled. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 71-73 is rendered moot. Claims 33, 32, 33 and 50-62 were amended to bring the claims into conformity with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 23, 32, 33 and 50-62 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In the January 16, 1992 Office Action claims 7, 9-13 and 15-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alaspa. As indicated above claims 16 and 71-73 were cancelled. Therefore the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 16 and 71-73 is rendered moot. The 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the apparatus of the present invention as now recited in claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70 is not taught or suggested by Alaspa whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Therefore, applicants respectfully the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70 as set forth in the January 16, 1992 Office Action.

As is clear from the above amendments of the independent claims 7, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, amendments were made therein to more clearly recite features of the present invention. Particularly amendments were made to the

claims to recite that the magnitude of the internal supply voltage changing at the second rate is larger than that of the internal supply voltage changing at the first rate and that the internal supply voltage changing at the third rate enables testing of the circuits.

The above described features now recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Alaspa. Particularly Alaspa shows in Fig. 3 that the magnitude (e) of the internal supply voltage the V_r changes at a second rate (from B to C) which is smaller than that of (A) of the internal supply voltage V_R changing at the first rate. This differs from that of the present invention as recited in the claims being that the claims now recite that the magnitude of the internal supply voltage changing at the second rate is larger than that of the internal supply voltage changing at the first rate.

These features of the present invention which permit the magnitude of the internal supply voltage to change at a second rate which is larger than the changing of the internal supply voltage at the second rate offers unique advantages over the prior art when used as a voltage limiter to small geometry devices in LSI circuits.

Therefore Applicants submit that the apparatus of the present invention as recited in claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70 is not taught or suggested by Alaspa whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Also in the January 16, 1992 Office Action the Examiner

rejected claims 13, 15, 20-24, 26, 35, 44 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takanashi. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the apparatus of the present invention as now recited in claims 13, 15, 20-24, 26, 35, 44 and 53 is not taught or suggested by Takanashi, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of records. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

As can be seen above, amendments were made to independent claims 13 and 20-24 from which claims 26, 35, 44 and 53 depend to recite that the magnitude of the internal supply of voltage changing at the second rate is larger than that of the internal supply voltage changing at the first rate. This feature is not taught or suggested by Takanashi.

Claims 13, 15, 20-24, 26, 35, 44 and 53 were also amended to recite that the internal supply voltage changing as the third rate larger than the second rate enables testing of the circuit. This feature is also not taught or suggested by Takanashi.

Takanashi fails to teach any increment of the internal supply voltage V_S changing at a third rate larger than the second rate for enabling the test of transistor logic circuit block 2.

The above described feature of the present wherein the internal supply voltage changing at a third rate larger than a second rate enabling testing of circuits provides unique

advantages over the prior art when used in the role for aging testing of LSI circuits including small geometry devices.

Therefore applicants submit that the apparatus of the present invention as recited in claims 13, 15, 20-24, 26, 35, 44 and 53 is not taught or suggested by Takanashi whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

A further limitation is recited in claim 24 that the internal supply means applied by a control signal when the load circuit flows a relatively large current and wherein a driving ability of the internal supply means is increased in response to the control signal. This feature is not taught or suggested by either Alaspa or Takanashi.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized and rejection of claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70.

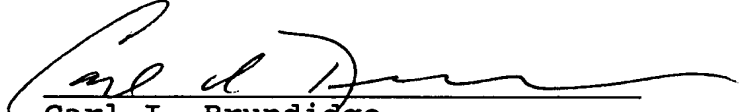
In view of the foregoing amendment and Remarks, Applicants submit that claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-70 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. section 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to

Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 501.20699VC2) and
please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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